how long this will remain under consideration? The question of oil refineries expansion is pending with the Government for a very long period. Will the Minister give us an assurance as to when it will be cleared and taken up?

SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALAVIYA: I cannot give an assurance about the particular time. But, we will take a decision soon.

SHRI JAGESH DESAI: Sir, I am happy that the cut which was there for diesel has been removed. Now, as far as the State Transport buses and the buses run by the Municipal Corporation are concerned, there is a growth in the number of buses every year. But you are not giving any additional diesel for that purpose. And as such many of the buses are not on the roads. In Bombay, 1000 buses of BEST are not on the roads. Similarly, many of the State Transport buses in Manarashtra are not on the roads. Sir, the STA is going in losses because they have got a fleet but they are not able to run it. And as such, I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether they will give any additional diesel at least for the buses run by the State Transport Authority or the Municipal Corporation which number has increased as compared to last year. You are only giving this year what was given last year in the same month. I want to know whether you will increase the supply of diesel so that people will not face any difficulty and the State Transport which are running in a huge loss will be able to reduce the losses to some extent. I want to know whether the Government will take action now as the situation has eased now.

SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALAVIYA: Sir, the 10 per cent cut on the consumption of diesel which was imposed by the earlier Government was withdrawn in November last. Secondly, as far as diesel was concerned, we gave top priority to the agriculture sector. But, now, since the situation has somewhat eased, we will definitely think and take decision about providing diesel to the transport sector.

MR. CHAIRMAN: He is talking about State transport.

SHRI JAGESH DESAI: I only want for public transport.

SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALAVIYA: Yes, Sir, for public transport.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Question No. 109.

*109. [*The questioner (Shri Shamim Hashmi) was absent. For answer,* vide *col.* 42 infra]

Maintenance of Engineering complex at Bombay Airport

*110. SHRI RAJUBHAI A. PARMAR:
SHRI KAPIL VERMA:†

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that DGCA has passed strictures against Indian Airlines management for its failure to maintain properly its Engineering Complex at Bombay airport, particularly in key areas like engine maintenance, stores, etc; and

(b) if so, what corrective action has been taken in this regard and whether responsibility has been fixed for these lapses?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI HARMOHAN DHAWAN): (a) The inspection of the engineering complex at Bombay airport conducted by the DGCA has revealed certain deficiencies.

†The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri Kapil Verma.

(b) DGCA has issued suitable instructions to the Indian Airlines management to remedy the deficiencies. DGCA has also suspended the approval given to the Quality Control Manager of Indian Airlines.

SHRI KAPIL VERMA: Sir, the Minister has stated that the inspection shows certain deficiencies. I want to know what the important deficiencies are particularly in relation to engine maintenance and stores.

SHRI HARMOHAN DHAWAN: Sir, there were seven dificiencies reported by the Inspection Board. One was that the soap check revealed that there was more increase in tantanium content. Then the second dificiency which was reported was there was something deficient in the allied values obtained from the statistical data. The third was about the investigation of incidents. There is a permanent Investigation Board which was functioning properly according to the Inspection Authority. Then there were certain irregularities about the bonded stores. And the cold storage was mentioned about. Then raw materials storage was also one of the points mentioned. Then the tyres, the way the tyres were stored. These were the seven points which were highlighted in that report.

SHRI KAPIL VERMA: Sir, I myself visited the Bombay airport and because of my interest in this thing, I also went up and saw that exactly is happening there in the machine room. I found that one radar machine was not functioning. Two or three radar machines were there. At least, one was not functioning, the one which was on the extreme right. Secondly, the landing navigational aids system on which crores of rupees have been spent has not been functioning properly. So, the international pilots are trying to avoid some of our airports. The Indian Pilots Association members said that they would rather prefer the old traditional methods. Now, I want to know what the Government is doing about that. Secondly, in part (b), the Government said that they issued suitable instructions. What are those instructions that have issued? Sir, you might remember that a Court of Inquiry has been set up about the Bangalore A-320 crash. They recommended that even the DGCA should be re-organised and modernised. What is the Government going to do about that?

SHRI HARMOHAN DHAWAN: Sir, the question the hon. Member put was regarding the Engineering Complex for which I mentioned that the Inspection Report found seven points which have been highlighted. That is one thing. Secondly....

MR. CHAIRMAN: He went there and he found certain things. Have you any idea about it?

SHRI HARMOHAN DHAWAN: Whatever deficiencies he has pointed out, we have taken note of them. That is one thing. Secondly, we have told the DGCA to have more such surprise checks and bring to our notice the deficiencies, and we try to improve upon them.

SHRI KAPIL VERMA: I asked about the modernisation of DGCA itself.

SHRI HARMOHAN DHAWAN: We are trying to strengthen....

SHRI KAPIL VERMA: The court of Enquiry says that even DGCA is most outdaed and it is not functioning properly.

SHRI HARMOHAN DHAWAN: The hon. Member has said that DGCA needs strengthening. We are trying to strengthen DGCA which is very vital and important for normal functioning. We are taking all steps to see that it is further strengthened.

SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA: May I know from the hon. Mnister whether it is true that the US Government has offered to improve communication and naviagational aids of the civilian airports in the country country after studying the country's airspace? It is learnt that Government has yet to take a decision on the proposal, even as the controversy about the refuelling of American Air Force transport planes is still raging in the country. The US Government has made a fresh proposal to India to study the Indian airspace. Is there any proposal from the US Government and what are the views of the Government about it?

SHRI HARMOHAN DHAWAN: Sir, the question is not relevant to the question which we are discussing here, but still I would answer. There is a plan to modernise our airports and it will cost about Rs. 200 crores. We have aready floated global tenders. There are various companies from various countries who are going to apply for it and we will look into it.

SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA: Sir, may I know whether they want to study the Indian airspace?

SHRI HARMOHAN DHAWAN: There is no such proposal. We are not conducting anything like that.

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI: Sir, the Engineering Complex at Bombay Airport was lacking in many respects, as has been pointed out by my friend and the Committee also gave reasons which the hon. Minister read out. In that there was also a suggestion because I was also associated with the Committee which was advising the Indian Airlines at Bombay Airport, as Mrs. Verma has pointed out, that there was a proposal for updating the navigational aids and for having adequate staff required in the Engineering Complex because many times navigational aids become sick. That is one and second, Mr. Minister, one of the biggest dangers of the Bombay Airport is the slum area round about. Usually, accidents take place because of the bird-hit and because of the bird-hit, it has been found that unless this slum area round about the landing ground is removed, the danger will be a permanent danger. So would you as Central Government take it up with the State Government, so that alternate arrangements are made to removing that slum area and slum population to a different site? What steps have been taken?

SHRI HARMOHAN DHAWAN: Sir, to the first question of the hon. Member, there is a plan to modernise our Airports particularly Bombay and Delhi which is going to cost more than Rs. 200 crores. We have already floated global tenders and by this month something is going to happen on that and these two Airports to be modernised. So, communication and navigational facilities have been taken care of. With regard to the second question, that is really a serious problem Slums around the airports is really a matter of grave concern to us because of the bird-hit. We have written to the various State Government to help us remove those slum areas to some other areas. Particularly in Bombay we have offered some money from the Ministry also to Air India and Indian Airlines to pay money to remove slums from that area. But nothing concrete has been achieved as yet. Our endeavour and effort is in that direction the hon. Member has pointed out.

*111. [*The questioner (Shri G. G Swell) was absent. For naswer,* vide *col.* 42-43 infra].

*112.[*The questioner (Shri Anantraj Dev Shankar Dave was absent. For answer,* vide *col.* 43 infra]

*113. [*The questioner (Shri Narayan Kar) was absent. For naswer,* vide col. 44 infra]